

**Pathfinder Ministries**  
**Georgia-Cumberland Conference of Seventh-day Adventists**  
**Expectations**

**Who We Are**

The Seventh-day Adventist Church is a worldwide community of believers in Christ. Our mission is to make disciples for Jesus Christ who live as His loving witnesses and proclaim to all people the everlasting gospel of the Three Angels' Messages in preparation for His soon return (Matt 28:18-20, Acts 1:8, Rev 14:6-12).

**What We Do**

The Pathfinder department of the Georgia-Cumberland Conference of Seventh-day Adventists seeks to create environments and experiences in which all will encounter the unconditional love of Jesus, find assurance of acceptance and forgiveness, make a commitment to Jesus Christ, and grow in Him.

**Our Values are Our Priority**

- Inclusivity – Youth will be valued and involved regardless of race, color, language, gender, age, abilities, or socio-economic circumstances.
- Safety – Our clubs will work to adopt safeguards to protect youth from physical, emotional, and spiritual abuse; to choose volunteers with strong spiritual and moral backgrounds; and to minimize the church's liability.
- Seventh-day Adventist faith – As a ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, our goals are to reflect the love of Jesus, teachings of Scripture, and ethical and moral norms as agreed upon by the worldwide Church community.

**Expectations of Pathfinders**

In order to encourage an inclusive, safe, and spiritual environment that embodies the Seventh-day Adventist faith for our clubs, youth participants will be expected to:

- Be respectful of other participants. This includes respecting their experiences, viewpoints, appearance, and property. Harassment, bullying, teasing, ignoring, excluding, unwanted physical contact or proximity, and tampering with belongings are examples of disrespectful behavior.
- Be truthful, honest, and transparent with one another and with leaders and volunteers. Undermining the program through distraction, being uncooperative, or being deceitful will not promote the experience we want all participants to enjoy.
- Act in harmony with Seventh-day Adventist Christian moral and ethical values. Seventh-day Adventists teach that sexual intimacy was divinely established in the context of marriage, and that marriage is a life-long commitment between one man and one woman. No public display of affection, physical intimacy, or sexual touch between youth participants is allowed, whether consensual or not. Unwanted physical contact, comments about appearance, as well as language and jokes about sexual subjects are prohibited, may be considered sexual harassment and will not be tolerated.
- Seek to find a personal identity in the special and unique giftedness granted them by a loving God, instead of accentuating belongings, social status, sexuality, or sexual orientation.

**Expectations of Volunteers**

Parents, staff, or others who wish to volunteer for this church-sponsored ministry should in daily life be an example of the above expectations of the youth. We seek adults who will:

- Be nurturing, welcoming, and patient with young people.
- Collaborate with others on the volunteer team to disciple and mentor youth. Appropriate communication, cooperation with team and leadership decisions, and behavior that encourages an atmosphere of respect and appreciation for other volunteers is expected.
- Be supportive of and adhere to the teachings and practices of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.
- Be committed to the physical and emotional safety of youth involved in our clubs. This will include staying current and certified in the Church's program for preventing harassment and abuse.
- Model to the best of their ability the values and understandings of marriage and family that have been agreed upon by the Seventh-day Adventist community of faith. Being involved in a Pathfinder club is a privilege, not a right. While we welcome the involvement of youth from all environments, parents whose behavior, home or lifestyle contradicts or is in opposition to Seventh-day Adventist values, specifically the Seventh-day Adventist belief and view of marriage and the home, diet and prohibition of use of alcohol, tobacco and illegal or recreational drugs or other substances will not be invited or permitted to participate as staff or directors. While this limitation is necessary to preserve the integrity of our mission as a church-based ministry, we fully respect each individual's decisions and choices, and believe all individuals to be of equal value in the sight of our loving God.

### **Pathfinder Statement of Agreement**

I understand the expectations for me as outlined above and I will strive to respect and uphold them.

Please print your name:

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Signature:

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Date

### **Parent/Legal Guardian Statement of Agreement**

I understand the expectations for my child as outlined above and I will support him/her as he/she strives to respect and uphold them.

Please print your name:

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Signature:

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Date

### **Staff Statement of Agreement**

I understand the expectations for me as outlined above and I will strive to respect and uphold them.

Please print your name:

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Signature:

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\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

***Please return this document to your club director.***